

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 8 have been amended. Dependent claims 13 and 14 have been added. Independent claims 15 and 16 have been added. Reexamination and reconsideration of claims 1-6 and 8-16 are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected independent claims 1 and 8 as being either anticipated by CHANDLER et al. (US 5,151,034) or obvious over CHANDLER et al. in view of HUBER et al. (US 3,179,912). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections in view of the clarifying amendments made with respect to claims 1 and 8 and the following remarks.

Initially, Applicant points out that the invention is directed toward a fixing holder (claim 1) and an assembly comprised of a printed circuit board, electronic component and the fixing holder (claim 8). The holder is an “almost cylindrical-shaped holder” (claim 1) or of a “hollow substantially cylindrical shape in a longitudinal direction” (claim 8). The fixing holder is then recited to have specific structural features, including a holder main body portion, and a base portion extending in the longitudinal direction from said holder main body portion. A side surface of the holder main body portion includes a “projection protruding forward and adapted to engage with the printed circuit board”. This side surface is on the side where a forward side opening is formed on the base portion.

By contrast, CHANDLER et al., as an initial matter, is not directed toward a fixing holder of the type recited in Applicants’ claimed invention. Rather, CHANDLER is directed toward a retainer 10 used to secure in place a

plug-type connector 54 that engages with nail connection pins 58, 60 that extend through a header 52 and are soldered to the printed circuit board 40 (see col. 2, lines 37-46 and Figure 4, in particular). Hence, the “connector” 54 addressed in the Office Action does not have “wire-shaped leg portions” unless reference is made to wires 56, rather than pins 42-50. More importantly, however, the retainer 10 does not have a projection protruding forward and adapted to engage the printed circuit board. Applicant notes the Examiner relies on the projections 22, 24 in CHANDLER to allegedly meet this claim limitation. However, those projections 22, 24 are not adapted to engage with the printed circuit board in CHANDLER, but rather are adapted to engage with the connector 54 (see col. 2, lines 13-17 and col. 3, lines 43-45).

Indeed, reference to Figure 2 clearly illustrates that the projections 22, 24 cannot engage the printed circuit board 40, but rather only the connector plug 54. Hence, Applicant submits independent claims 1 and 8 are patentable over CHANDLER, whether taken alone or in combination with HUBER et al. In that regard, HUBER merely discloses a cylindrical holder for a coaxial connector.

Additionally, in the Office Action, the Examiner identifies alleged corresponding portions of CHANDLER with respect to Applicant’s claimed invention. To that end, Applicant has clarified that the base portion of the fixing holder extends in the longitudinal direction from the holder main body portion. For example, this can be seen in Figures 1a and 2a with respect to base portion 2a and main body portion 2b. By contrast, the Office Action references base portions 14, 16 which are arranged on the side of the main body portion 12, not in a longitudinal direction extending from the main body portion 12.

Applicant has added new dependent claims 13 and 14 reciting the base portion being substantially closed on its sides except for the forward side opening and bottom opening. Clearly, even an interpretation of CHANDLER to include the arms 26, 28 as the alleged base portion cannot meet the limitations of dependent claims 13 and 14. Hence, these claims are submitted to be separately patentable.

Regarding the other claims, claims 3 and 4 recite that the slanted surface contacts the upper surface of the printed circuit board. No where is this feature taught or suggested in CHANDLER. The Examiner's reliance on the inside surfaces of tabs 22 and 24 do not contact the upper surface of the printed circuit board as discussed above. Rather, they are arranged below the connector 54 or, alternatively, in slots formed in the connector 54. Moreover, the slanted surface is not formed at a lower end portion of the flat surface as recited in Applicant's claims. The inside surfaces of tabs 22, 24 in CHANDLER are not formed at "a lower end portion of the flat surface" as in Applicants' invention. Nevertheless, Applicants have amended claims 3 and 4 to clearly note that the lower end portion is in the longitudinal direction. Hence, claims 3 and 4 are submitted to be separately patentable over the prior art of record.

Lastly, Applicant has added new independent claims 15 and 16. Claim 15 recites in independent form the combination of claims 1, 3 and 13. For the reasons noted above with respect to the patentability of these claims both independently and separately from one another, Applicant submits the combined claim 15 is also patentable. Regarding claim 16, this claim recites the combination of claims 8, 2, 4 and 14. Again, in view of the patentability of each

of these individual claims, Applicant submits combined claim 16 is also patentable.

In view of the above, Applicant submits claims 1-6 and 8-16 are in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is solicited.

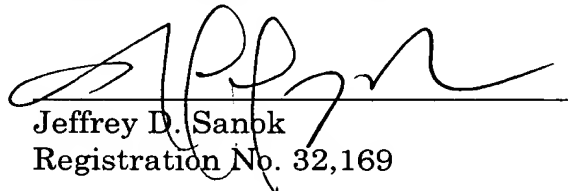
Summarizing, Applicant has made an important contribution to the art to which the present subject matter pertains, for which no counterpart is shown in any of the art or combination of same. The invention is fully set forth and carefully delimited in all claims in this case. Under the patent statute, Applicant should not be deprived of the protection to which he is entitled for this contribution. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that favorable reconsideration and an early notice of allowance be provided for all remaining claims.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #3064NG/48834).

Respectfully submitted,

October 16, 2003


Jeffrey D. Sanok
Registration No. 32,169

CROWELL & MORING, LLP
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844